

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 23, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1 and 3-10 have been amended to correct certain informalities noted upon review and to better conform to U.S. practice, such as changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Further amendments include changing "A" to -The-- at the beginning of the dependent claims. Claims 1 and 3-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing

prosecution, claims 5 and 9 have been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 5 and 9 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2. Further, claims 3 and 4 have been written in independent form.

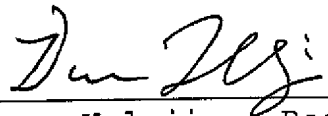
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 3-4 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-13 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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